Mary Ann Kingdon
Jany 91

WHY DOES THE KINGDOM TARRY?

Mtt.6:10 Thy kingdom come.

INTRO. The vision of dying Israel's prophets.

A. A kingdom of peace and plenty, of liberty and holiness.

No more hunger, no more war.

Wilderness to rejoice, desert to bloom

A new world order.

B. Jesus came. His first message, "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand". A gospel of the kingdom which was to fulfill the vision of the prophets, the new world-order ushering in the Golden Age.

His little band of disciples who believed in H.m. Their Lord lived and died and arose and ascended-and still they looked for the coming of the kingdom. One by one passed out and the very last one left wrote, "Even so, ~~Lord~~, come, Lord Jesus."

C. More than 19 centuries have passed, and we still look for the coming of the K. We still long for peace. Holiness is still alien in a world of greed, strife, bitterness, infidelities, great corruptions and enormous sins. The K.ngdom tarries. Why?

I. Because of a false view of the nature of man.

1. It is assumed in so many ways that men are naturally good. Writers and thinkers of every of every description tell us "it is not human nature to do wrong." Change the environment and all will be made right. O.r poor and shameful acting on the stage of life is due to the use of wrong stage properties. The scenery must be changed.

IMW. I.2. But experience teaches and the Bible declares that "the heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked."
This reminds you of the Bible story of creation and you dont believe it any more? You believe in evolution instead? All right, then this is justwhat has happened.

Too much luggage taken on our trips.

Man's journey from the mere animal to the divinely human has been hindered in the sam way. We have carried along with us too much of the pig, too much of the cat, too much of the fox, too much of the mule, too much tiger, too much peacock- altogether too much animalism for right living in the kingdom of God.

3. Man does not need a change of invironment as much as he needs a change of heart. Jesus' declaration to Nicodemus-"Ye must be born again Man needs a new heart, a new mind, a new will, and a new motive for personal living, such as Jesus offers to give.

The trouble is not in the setting of the stage. Jesus saw that when he cried,"Repent ye-

II. The Kingdom tarries because of a false view of the purpose of life.

1. Catechism-"The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

The Kingdom is a matter of spiritual living, but- we persist in living after pagan fas hion.

We want liberty, health and wealth, happiness, security, conveniences and lots of fun, but we dont want to assume the responsibilities puon which their getting and maintenance depends.

The young man who enlists in the navy and soon becomes a deserter. What's wrong? His dream- and the reality!

Dont laugh, the sin of society is just that

3. II. A false ideal of life. Siezing upon the pleasures of life and evading the responsibilities. That is why courts are crowded with divorce and criminal cases. That is why our factories are run by human slaves, that is why commercialism wraps its dordid cloak over all.

III. Lastly, the Kingdom tarries because of a false view as to the way it should come.

1. The individual is being submerged into society of which he is a part. Corporations and institutions have stunted, numbed, and killed the conscience of the individual.

Society will never be any better than the men who compose it. The kingdom of God cannot be built out of unregenerate, sinful men.

2. Jesus discovered the individual-his real worth and ultimate purpose: and only by men born anew in godlike ways can the kingdom be established. The k. of G, is with men, only so far as men are with God.

2. We tend to convert our means to ends.

The lodge address Friday.

School, church, lodge, gov't, national, state and local, are but means to the end of enabling all of God's children of earth to so to live as to fit themselves for living in the Kingdom of God's love and good, justice and mercy, peace and plenty.

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